Large vulvar lipoma

Lipoma vulvar gigante

Dear Editor:

In March 2013, we participated in the 9th AEU aid campaign with Hospital Virgen Milagrosa (HVM), Foundation "Proyecto Hombres Nuevos", Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. The campaign is charitable, and directed to a low-income population located in a peripheral neighborhood of the city. It promotes the treatment of "prolapses of the bladder, renal stones and prostate diseases", in medical consultations and surgical interventions for which the institution determines very low prices.

A woman aged 46 years, with right vulvar mass, non-painful and slow growth, with more than 20 years of evolution, was referred for treatment. She had a pregnancy followed by abortion and with no surgical record. On examination, we found a pendulum ovoid mass, very mobile, with a narrow pedicle in vulvar right labia major and larger diameters of 18.10 cm, homogeneous soft consistency, non-painful and its base neither related with pubis nor right obturator or inguinal foramen. The labia minora, introitus and urethral meatus were normal (Fig. 1A). On echographic imaging the mass appeared homogeneous with clear borders, hypovascular and hyperechoic.

With a diagnosis of large vulvar lipoma, complete excision was performed by elliptical incision on the mass basis, under regional anesthesia. The mass did not have a significant vascular pedicle and showed a well-defined uniform thin capsule at its proximal limit of normal vulvar fat. The patient recovered without incidents, and returned home the following day (Fig. 1B). In later consultation, scarring and esthetic outcomes were assessed. The HVM has no pathologist and it is not usual to send to other centers surgical specimens for histopathological study, except in specific cases, because that is an expense that patient would have to assume (like other consumables used during hospitalization). When the organs and tissues excised are supposed to be benign, it is customary to deliver them to patients for conformity.

Although lipoma is the most frequent benign tumor of the soft tissues, vulvar lipoma is a rare tumor, with slow growth, in the adipose tissue of the vulvar labia. Tumor size can vary from small size tumor, showing a slight asymmetry of the vulvar sides (diagnosis may be confirmed by image techniques), to large-size tumor with appearance of ovoid or pedunculated mass. Less than one hundred of large vulvar lipoma have been reported up to now; some of them have been described in developing countries. To our knowledge, our patient’s tumor is one of the largest vulvar lipoma ever reported. The possibility of sarcomatous changes, generally well differentiated, is exceptional.

![Figure 1](image-url)

Figure 1  (A) Giant vulvar lipoma. (B) Postoperative appearance.

---

References


a Servicio de Urología, Hospital de Zafra-Llerena, Badajoz, Spain
b Servicio de Urología, Hospital Povisa, Vigo, Spain
c Servicio de Urología, Hospital Arnau de Vilanova, Valencia, Spain
d Servicio de Urología, Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Albacete, Albacete, Spain
e Servicio de Anestesiología, Hospital Povisa, Vigo, Spain
f Servicio de Anestesiología, Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Vigo, Vigo, Spain
g Servicio de Urología, Hospital Virgen Milagrosa, Santa Cruz, Bolivia

∗ Corresponding author.
E-mail address: luisfarina@yahoo.com (L.A. Fariña-Pérez).